

STATEMENT OF J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, UPON SIGNING THE DIVORCE
PROCEDURAL ACT, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA,
APRIL 15, 1949.

The divorce amendment to the Constitution was voted in by the people last November and ratified by the General Assembly this session. It has, therefore, become a part of the Constitution, and by it the courts are directed to grant divorces on certain grounds. Already divorce suits are being brought into courts.

Since the courts have to grant divorces under the Constitutional amendment it is highly important that the procedure to be followed in such suits be prescribed by the General Assembly, and that body has passed an act for this purpose.

I am glad that the procedural act requires every effort to be made to reconcile the parties before the divorce is granted, and that hasty divorces will be prevented by its provisions.

The home is the bedrock of our civilization and it behooves us to preserve, by every possible safeguard, the sanctity of the family.

Because the procedural act is necessary to protect the public interest, I have today signed this act.

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